



Leffingwell started with a Weber Weeder and changed the controls so the sweet corn caddy can be operated by hand from inside the frame.

SIT DOWN OR STAND UP ON SELF-PROPELLED CART

Pickin's Easy With Sweet Corn Caddy

You can pick sweet corn fast but without the drawbacks of a mechanical harvester using the new Sweet Corn Caddy from Rusty's Ag Sales and Manufacturing.

"It's the first sweet corn picker of its kind," says inventor Rusty Leffingwell. "It lets one person do a lot more harvesting much faster than he could on foot. And you don't have to pick everything the first time through like a mechanical harvester would do."

"The operator can sit down to pick low-growing, early varieties or stand up to get the higher-growing, later-maturing varieties. The best part is you can carry corn back to the farm from the field on the cart."

Introduced this summer, Leffingwell's caddy is loosely based on a popular spot sprayer for soybean farmers.

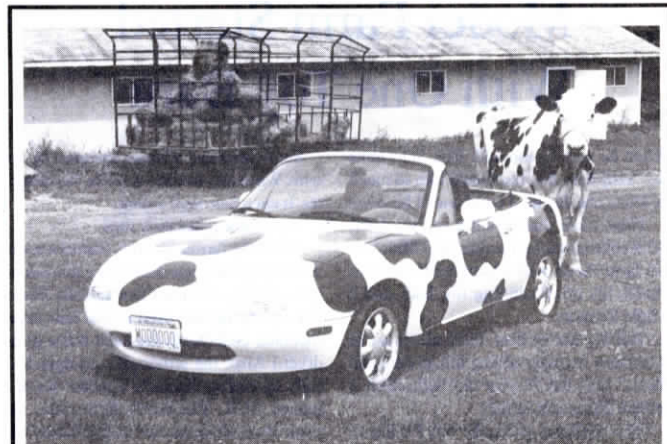
"I redesigned a Weber Weeder, putting the driver at the back of the frame, rather than out front, and changed the controls so you can operate it by hand from inside the frame," he says.

Controls for steering, throttle, brake and clutch are located directly in front of the driver, who sits or stands on a platform made of extruded metal across the cart's triangular frame. In addition to the operator, the cart has carrying capacity for 300 to 400 lbs. of corn.

Made out of square tubing, the cart's frame is 6 1/2-ft. long from the front 12-in. dia. wheel to the rear 8-in. dia. wheels. Power to the caddy's front drive wheel is supplied by a 5 hp Briggs and Stratton engine mounted on the cart. Maximum speed is 5 mph.

Height of the cart's side rails is adjustable from 48 to 60 in. off the ground for varying maturities. Likewise, width of the cart's rear axle is adjustable from 60 to 70 in. for different row spacings.

Price of the Sweet Corn Caddy is \$1,550. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rusty Leffingwell, Rusty's Ag Sales and Manufacturing, 412 N. 7th St., Fairbury, Ill. 61739 (ph 800 373-2809 or 815 692-3895).



Minnesota Woman Creates "Cow Car"

"I just did it for fun," says Mary Stillmank of Minneapolis, Minn., who decorated her white 1993 Mazda Miata with sticky-back vinyl spots to look like a Holstein cow after a body shop refused the job. She bought the material and made her own design, putting 16 "spots" on the car. "I get a lot of 'thumbs up' signs from people, and truck drivers honk their horns. I never thought I'd get such a great reaction," says Stillmank, the daughter of a Wisconsin dairy farmer. She even mounted vanity license plates that say "MOOOOOO" on the car. Stillmank spent less than \$150 to decorate the car and says she's considering going into business creating "cow cars" and pickups. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mary Stillmank, 1988 Sheridan Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55405.

VISITORS LOVE THIS 92-YEAR-OLD FARMER'S DISPLAY OF RARE FARM EQUIPMENT

Oscar's Dreamland

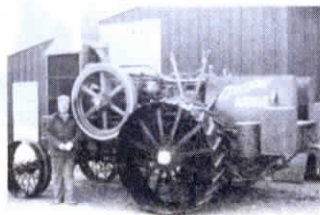
In 1968, Oscar Cook, Billings, Mont., retired after 40 years of ranching and farm equipment sales. Soon after, he decided to share his collection of rare tractors, steam engines, tools, and other equipment by opening his doors to the public. His wife Marcia hit upon the perfect name for the new tourist destination - "Oscar's Dreamland".

The name stuck and since then the 92-year-old farmer, who was born in 1901 near Emporia, Kan., and was at one time a farm-based dealer for Rumely Tractor and later became one of the largest Allis Chalmers dealers in the nation, has ushered thousands of visitors through his farm.

In 1957, when Oscar sold out his dealership and moved to a ranch in Montana, he started his tractor collection with the purchase of a 1920 Oil-Pull Rumely. Over the next 10 years, he bought many antique tractors across the country, putting the more than 300 pieces on display on a 160-acre site near Billings.

In 1974, at the age of 74, Oscar began working in earnest on both collecting and restoring. Storage and display buildings were set up and the collection grew rapidly as he developed new interests. The collection today numbers over 10,000 items and requires 152,000 sq. ft. of indoor display space as well as 18 acres outdoors. Included are collections of tractor seats (300), original frontier buildings (10), construction and military equipment, airplanes and airplane engines, boat motors, hand tools, a working 1920 ferris wheel, a 1900 merry-go-round and swing, antique watches, the world's largest revolving clock, steam engines and tractors, wagons, drilling equipment, and much more.

The more than 500 tractors are the stars of the show. Nearly all run. Oscar tells visitors they've been "restored to the way they were when last at work". They come in all shapes and sizes. Some of the biggest attention-getters are a 110 Best, a steam-



One of the biggest attention-getters at "Oscar's Dreamland" is Kerosene Annie, prototype of the Rumely tractor line (top). Collection is displayed on a 160-acre site near Billings, Mont.

powered giant that was the forerunner of the Caterpillar line; Kerosene Annie, the prototype of the Rumely tractor line; and various rare Allis Chalmers, Massey, Case and other brands. One of the most unusual tractors is one that starts with a shotgun shell.

The collection is open daily to the public in the summer and son Riley Cooke now manages the operation. He says the operation keeps no duplicates of machines and that at the current time they have a few rare machines for sale at "bargain basement" prices: a Caterpillar 60, 2 Cat 30's, 2 Allis Chalmers K Travelers, a 20/35 Allis Chalmers, and a Wallis Cub.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Oscar's Dreamland, 4745 Hesper Rd., Billings, Mont. 59106 (ph 406 245-4598).

Easy-To-Pick "High-Rise" Strawberries

A pick-your-own fruit grower in England has come up with a way to make his operation stand out from the competition. Andrew Hope, who farms near Brockworth in Gloucestershire, puts his strawberries up on "stilts" to make berry picking easier.

As word of mouth spread about his unusual back-friendly operation, customers have flocked to Hope's farm.

When Hope first got the idea, he tried growing berries in bags of compost raised off the ground. It worked so well he set up more than 2 miles of troughs made from plastic pipe wood mounted on fence posts 3 to 5 ft. off the ground and spaced about 3 ft. apart. The first day he was open for picking this year, he had more than 2,000 customers, each of whom picked an average of 6 lbs. of fruit apiece. Hope plans to set up 2 1/2 more miles of growing troughs for next year.

He says customers pick more fruit when they don't have to bend over. And he notes his high-rise berries are ideal for disabled people. There's room between rows to get a wheelchair through.



Because the growing troughs are filled with pure compost, they have to be watered for at least 5 min. every hour regardless of weather. Hope runs irrigation lines along each trough. He also coated each post with a sticky substance to keep insects from crawling up to the fruit. The result, he reports, is a much healthier crop than when grown on the ground and no need for pesticides or herbicides.

He charges no more per pound than he did before. He's counting on increased volume to cover the added expense. (The Daily Mail, London, England)